



December 15, 2005

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Commissioners

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director

RE: SAFETEA-LU Safe Routes to School Program Funding Amount, Agenda Item 5e

Dear Commissioners:

**Executive Summary**

As a result of program changes at the Federal level in SAFETEA-LU that require revisions to the implementation of State law, the State has been in discussions with a broad array of partners regarding the ongoing implementation of the Safe Routes to School Program. Several funding options are being discussed to implement the Safe Routes to School element. These discussions will continue. Staff recommends that TAM advocate for Option 3, containing the highest amount of funding, commensurate with current funding commitments already made by the State.

**Recommendation: That TAM advocate for the highest level of funding for the State's implementation of the Safe Routes to School element of SAFETEA-LU, and that Option 3 be adopted by the parties to the Memorandum of Understanding.**

A Memorandum of Understanding is being developed to document general agreements for the distribution of federal safety funds for Fiscal Year 2006. Several Funding Options were identified and at this time the proposal is Option 3, providing \$43,451,455 in funding statewide for Safe Routes to School.

Of the options considered, Option 3 provides the highest funding for Safe Routes to School.

As discussions will continue on this implementation, TAM staff recommend that the TAM Board go on record supporting this maximized funding level and authorize its Executive Director and Board Chair to advocate as necessary for the successful implementation of this option.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends:

That TAM advocate for the highest level of funding for the State's Safe Routes to Schools implementation under SAFETEA-L , and that Option 3 be adopted by the parties to the Memorandum of Understanding.

Attachments:

Draft Memorandum of Understanding for the Distribution of Federal Safety Funds for the Federal Fiscal Year 2006

Safety Programs: Funding Options

SAFETEA LU Implementation Draft Discussion Paper: Safe Routes to Schools